

Acquisition Reform Success Story

Joint Simulation System (JSIMS)

Program Manager: Drew Beasley, CAPT, USN
Program Executive Officer: Mr. John Gilligan
Contractor: TRW
Contractor PM: Mr. Lane Arbuthnot
Success Story POC: Lt Col Steve Zenishek,
AFPEO/BA, DSN 223-8068

Program Description

The Joint Simulation System (JSIMS) is a single, seamlessly integrated simulation environment, consisting of a core infrastructure and mission space objects which can be composed to create a simulation capability to support Joint or Service training, rehearsal, or education objectives. JSIMS will be a distributed simulation system to provide functional capability to realistically represent full range of military power applications for specific and joint requirements, including supporting functionalities (logistics, intelligence, medical, engineering, communications, meteorological, geophysical, oceanographic, space environmental factors, information warfare, electronic warfare).

How Streamlining Made a Difference

The JSIMS acquisition team embraced the Secretary of the Air Force (SAF) "Lightning Bolt Initiatives", effectively using what's best about Acquisition Reform to bring on board a contractor who could: use open system standards; integrate several service-developed simulation models into newly-developed core software; maximize commercial off-the-shelf hardware/software and commercial specifications; and deliver an Integrated Master Plan (IMP), Integrated Master Schedule (IMS), and Software Development Plan (SDP). Examples:

- Early and regular industry participation
- No government Statement of Work (SOW) or system specification in the JSIMS Request for Proposal (RFP). Rather, a JSIMS Statement of Objectives (SOO) and a Technical Requirements Document (TRD), with a government/contractor developed SOW that is being delivered after contract award
- Heavy reliance on electronic data interchange
- Absolute-minimum government data requirements
- Pre-solicitation government-contractor meetings; offeror pool contributed to RFP preparation
- Electronic dissemination of program information via world-wide web
- Electronic posting of a draft RFP
- Electronic posting of evaluation standards during source selection
- Written Proposals complemented with Oral Proposals and On-Site Demonstrations
- Face-to-Face Clarification Request (CR) discussions
- All interchange completed prior to evaluation of cost proposals; no BAFO

These precepts resulted in an ambitious acquisition schedule, but allowed for contract requirements that "made sense". In another reform move designed to get down to business quickly, the Commerce Business Daily was used up front to request identification of offerors who seriously intended to serve as prime contractors for JSIMS. This move clearly narrowed the field, and allowed for a series of face-to-face meetings with these potential offerors before RFP release, which helped refine the solicitation and provided two-way insight valuable to the upcoming RFP release.

Bottom Line: Aggressive, successful teamwork by the JSIMS JPO, the Program Executive Officer (PEO), Hanscom Air Force Base's Electronic System Center (ESC), and industry representatives made possible a vast amount of up-front work, and allowed for a cleaner solicitation and evaluation. JSIMS' Acquisition Milestone Schedule began with approval of the Acquisition Strategy Panel (ASP) on 16 February 1996, release of RFP on 19 July 1996, and award of a single, seven-year CPAF contract on 02 December 1996.

*Published by the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Acquisition) as of 2 Jan 97.
For more on Air Force Acquisition, try our homepage at <http://www.safaq.hq.af.mil>.*